

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00777 221203Z
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13
ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 /185 W
-----082666 222229Z /41

R 221045Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7554
AMCON GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA: COMMENCEMENT OF SEVENTH SESSION

REF: A. STATE 070035 B. STATE 070638

1. EMBOFF CALLED MARCH 22 ON MAJMADDIN HAMMOUDAH, SPECIAL ADVISOR TO UAE FOREIGN MINISTER WHOSE DUTIES CURRENTLY INCLUDE LOS MATTERS, AND ON FOREIGN MINISTRY LEGAL COUNSELOR TAJ AL-SIR HAMZA TO LEAVE WITH THEM COPIES OF REF A. IN RESPONSE TO HAMMOUDAH QUERY ABOUT STATUS OF US DEEP SEA BAD MINING LEGISLATION, EMBOFF NOTED THAT BILL NOW BEING CONSIDERED IN CONGRESS WITS EXPECTATION STILL THAT IT WILL BE PASSED SOMETIME IN FIRST HALF OF 1978. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT PURPOSE OF BILL, AS AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON HAS POINTED OUT, IS NOT A CZUD WITH WHICH TO THREATEN OPPONENTS AT GENEVA BUT IS INSTEAD INTENDED TO PROVIDE BADLY NEEDED LEGAL FRAMEWORK WHICH WOULD ENABLE AMERICAN COMPANIES TO MAKE NECESSARY DECISIONS ON
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WHETHER TO INVEST IN EXTREMELY COSTLY R&D OVER PERIOD OF NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. HAMMOUDAH EXPRESSED PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING FOR USG POSITION ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT HE ALSO HAS SOME RESERVATION (WHICH HE DID NOT SPELL OUT) ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF US POSITION ON DEEA SEA BAD MINING.

2. NEITHER OFFICIAL OFFERED ANY COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF

LOS ISSUES OUTSTANDING. HOWEVER, BOTH MENTIONED THAT ON BASIS OF REPORT RECEIVED FROM UAEDEL NEW YORK AFTER INTER-SESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS, THEY ARE NOT RPT NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT AGREEMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE TREATY CAN BE REACHED DURING SEVENTH SESSION. HAMZA EXPRESSED OPINION THAT EVENTUALLY IT MIGHT BE BEST TO SEPARATE DEP SEA BED MINING ISSUE FROM OTHER LOS ISSUES ON WHICH CONSENSUS MORE LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED, LEAVING FORMER ISSUE FOR RESOLUTION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AT SOME LATER DATE.

3. COMMENT: BOTH HAMMOUDAH (IRAQI) AND HAMZA (SUDANESE) ARE EXPATRIATE ADVISERS AND IT NOT CLEAR HOW FAR THEY ARE REFLECTING VIEWS OF UAEG OR MERELY THEIR OWN. IN ANY EVENT, WE SUSPECT THAT ON MANY MATTERS UAE POSITION LIKELY TO EVOLVE WITHIN CONTEXT OF ARAB BLOC CONSENSUS AT GENEVA WITH ONLY GENERAL GUIDANCE OR INSTRUCTION FROM HERE.
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

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